

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6294**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 1**

**DATE PREPARED:** Feb 25, 2002

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 25, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Lobbyist Registration.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** John Parkey

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9854

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill provides for a reduction in the annual lobbyist registration fee if a lobbyist files all lobbying reports electronically. The bill increases the maximum civil penalties the Lobby Registration Commission may impose.

The bill changes the date by which legislators are required to file a statement of economic interests to not later than January 31 of each year. The bill also changes the date that a lobbyist must file an activity report for the second half of the previous calendar year from to not later than January 31 to not later than January 15.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2002.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill could reduce the administrative burden of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission (ILRC) if it encourages lobbyists to file reports on time and electronically.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Annual Registration Fee:* Lobbyists are required to pay an annual registration fee to the ILRC. The current registration fee is \$100, unless the lobbyist is employed by certain qualified nonprofit organizations, in which case the fee is \$50. This bill will reduce the annual registration fee from \$100 to \$50 for lobbyists that choose to file all the reports required by the ILRC electronically. The fee for lobbyists employed by qualified nonprofit organizations that file reports electronically will be reduced from \$50 to \$25. Fees collected by the ILRC are deposited into the state General Fund. The specific impact of this bill on the General Fund is unknown and will be dependent upon the number of lobbyists that choose to file their lobbying reports electronically.

In 2001, 164, or approximately 12%, of the lobbyists filing with the ILRC did so electronically. If these lobbyists continue to file electronically, General Fund revenue would be reduced by \$8,200 in FY 2003. (Based on the 2001 data, none of the lobbyists employed by qualified non-profits filed electronically.) If all

of the current registered lobbyists choose to file electronically, it is estimated that state General Fund revenue could be reduced by *as much as* \$67,500 in FY 2003. However, since this bill also increases the fining capacity of the Commission, a portion of any reduction in General Fund revenue may be partially mitigated.

*Increase in fines:* This bill will increase the maximum penalty for lobbyists that register late or are late in filing the required semiannual reports. The late fee is \$10 per day past the deadline in which the annual registration or semiannual report is due. Current law caps the late penalty at \$100. This bill will increase the cap to \$1,000. The bill also increases the civil penalty that the ILRC is able to collect in the event that a hearing by the Commission finds that a lobbyist failed to accurately file lobbying reports. The bill will increase the civil penalty from \$500 to \$5,000. Fine collections are deposited into the state General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Lobby Registration Commission; Secretary of the Senate; Principal Clerk of the House.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Indiana Lobby Registration Commission, 232-9860.